Processing facilities for fruit producing areas

2763. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of fruits processed out of the fruits produced in the country during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) whether it is a fact that fruit producers incur heavy loss every year for want to processing facilities in the country, particularly in the high fruit producing areas; and

(c) if so, the concerted drive in this regard, as contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., the utilisation of fruits and vegetables for processing is estimated to be around 2.20% of the total production and wastage of fruit and vegetables is estimated to be about Rs. 33,000 crore occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting like inadequate post - harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage and processing facilities etc.

(c) This Ministry has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernisation/Establishment of food processing industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A & N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is allowed. The Government of India has also launched the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for holistic development of Horticulture in the country.

Ministry has identified thrust areas for strategic intervention. for the Eleventh Plan, by establishing Mega Food Parks, Cold-chain/value addition and preservation infrastructure, capacity building by setting up of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and establishment/ upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories, which could result in increasing the level of processing value addition or food products, including perishables.

Private sector participation in mango/fruit pulp industries

2764. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to start or to facilitate private sector to start mango pulp or fruit pulp industries in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;